

## Don't Waste the Great Lakes State

-LeRoy Harvey, East Lansing, 505-2809

Lifting the ban on yard waste in landfills will not only eliminate jobs... it will jeopardize the sustainability of our communities - and sacrifice the quality of our air, water, land, and resource base.

Some little-known facts (some would rather keep buried)...

- 1) The methane produced at landfills is not high quality - Pure natural gas must be added up to *4 to 1 or more*. It is burned in relatively inefficient diesel engines that rarely capture the waste heat (which can be 70% or more of the energy output).
- 2) Efficient methane production requires precise temperature, pH, and nutrient requirements. "Efficiency Rates" can be very misleading. When we talk about energy or resource efficiency, we're normally concerned about how much we get out vs. how much we put in. A 70% Efficiency of Methane Capture has NOTHING to do with this. It refers to the efficiency of the collection system that captures methane from the landfill. As stated by others, much of the methane (a very potent Greenhouse Gas) is generated before and after the capture period.
- 3) Unlike traditional composting facilities and methane digesters, most of the organic material is rendered useless in traditional landfills.

If you stand for JOBS, the environment, renewable energy, clean air, and waste reduction... this legislation stinks. While "waste" haulers and landfill operators can and should capture methane efficiently - and play a part in exploring and demonstrating innovative recycling and energy options, we should look for ways to *eliminate ALL organic waste from landfills (paper, food scraps, yard clippings, etc.)* as other regions are doing, and explore far more efficient ways of producing methane and electricity.